Joint ventures in certain groups of Industries

1555. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have relaxed the terms of foreign investments in respect of joint ventures in certain groups of industries, and extended automatic approval in respect of food processing and electronic entertainment upto 51% foreign equity, with effect from January 1, 1997;

(b) if so, the precise economic reforms announced on new year eve; and

(c) the reactions and responses of industry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The Government have recently expanded the list of industries for automatic approval for foreign equity investment. Thirteen more industries have been included in Annex III for allowing automatic approval upto 51% foreign equity participation; three industries qualifying for automatic approval upto 50% foreign equity and nine industries wherein automatic approval upto 74% foreign equity participation is allowed have also been included in Annex III. However, electronic entertainment industry is not covered under the automatic approval scheme.

The Government have also issued a set of guidelines for consideration of foreign direct investment proposals by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board.

(c) The response of the Industry, in general, has been favourable.

Amendment to Indian Boilers Bill

1556. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Standing Committee on Industry in its 13th report presented to Parliament in March, 1995 had recommended that Government should start consultations with State Governments and the related organisations before further amending the Indian Boilers Bill;

(b) if so, the progress thereof; and

(c) the amount of total export of boilers from the country and the details of countries to whom boilers are being exported?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government discussed the issue with the members of the Central Boilers Board and the representatives of the State Governments. A consensus for moving the official Amendments to the Bill was arrived at, which was again circulated to all the State Governments for their comments. Based on the consensus arrived at, the official amendments to the Indian Boilers (Amendment) Bill, 1994 are being processed.

(c) No data is available, as the exports are not conducted through this Ministry.

Action plan for modernisation of SSI units in Gujarat

1557. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan for modernisation and technology upgradation in the Small Scale Industrial (SSI) sector in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the facilities being provided to SSI units in the State under the action plan